

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed January 13, 2006, are the objection to the specification, the priority claim, the objections to the claims and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and §103. Reconsideration of each of these issues, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Objection to Disclosure

The Abstract has been replaced with a new Abstract which addresses the criticisms of Page 2 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of this portion of the objection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the objection to the disclosure, it is not understood why the use of bullet points and bold typeface, albeit “unconventional”, is unsatisfactory. Inasmuch as nothing is seen in the use of bullet points or bold face which renders the disclosure less than clear to one of ordinary skill in the art, it is not seen that change is needed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Priority

The Examiner is thanked for noting the typographical error in the priority date of the provisional application. Appropriate correction has been made.

Objections to Claims

Claims 1-8 have been objected-to in view of various typographical issues. Minor typographical changes have been made to the claims, which do not change the scope thereof. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner's careful reading of the claims is appreciated, and appropriate typographical or grammatical changes have been made. These changes also do not change the scope of the claims, either literally or for purposes of the doctrine of equivalents. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over *Gilles* taken with *Scholten et al*, *Ludewig* and *Peerlkamp*. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Gilles discloses a process for the production of solid nylon articles, comprising combining the nylon with a solvent to dissolve the nylon, precipitating a powder, treating the powder with an aqueous solution of silicate, cold-pressing the powder to form a shaped article, and sintering the cold pressed article. Thus, as admitted at Page 6 of the Office Action, the reference does not disclose laser sintering, and moreover, does not disclose a process wherein a solid polyamide is treated with water or steam at a sufficient temperature close to the crystallization temperature so as to affect the melting point or melting enthalpy of the polyamide.

In order to remedy the deficiency of the primary reference, the Office Action first cites *Scholten et al.* for the process of producing shaped articles by laser sintering powdered nylon. Thus, this reference does nothing to suggest water or steam treatment at a temperature close to crystallization temperature. The Office Action also cites *Ludewig* for water treatment of polyamides, and *Peerlkamp* for heat treatment of polyamides to increase enthalpy, and argues that it would be obvious to heat up the water treatment of *Ludewig*. However, these references clearly are non-analogous to the primary reference, and even in combination, do not result in the presently claimed process.

Ludewig discloses extraction of water from aqueous monomer *suspension* of polyamide. Of course, as is well known, nylons are typically produced in aqueous suspension. One of ordinary skill in the art possesses no motivation to heat up the aqueous monomer suspension of *Ludewig*, since *Peerlkamp* teaches heat-treating of a *molded* polyamide article, and not a raw aqueous suspension before the polyamide has even been isolated. Such a combination teaches heat treating a molded article, not polymer powder prior to molding.

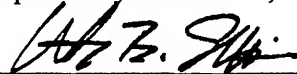
Moreover, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine *Peerlkamp* and *Gilles*, for example, the heat treatment would still be of the cold pressed article, subsequent to treatment with silicate and water. Thus, even this combination of references would not result in a process in which a solid polyamide is contacted with steam or water at a temperature close to crystallization temperature, for a time long enough to increase melting point or enthalpy as recited in present Claim

1. This is even more the case for Claim 6, which specifies that the *solid* polyamide of Claim 1 is in the form of granules or powder, and not in the form of a shaped article.

Accordingly, it is seen that the combination of no less than 4 references in the Office Action simply does not result in the presently claimed process, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: ATOCM-305

Filed: April 13, 2006
HBS:aek k:\atocm\300-399\305\reply 4-13-06